



Binford Weaver

Bringing You Nature's Best Queens, Bees, and Honey

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February 6, 1998

APR 26 2000

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
The House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Johnson,

I am writing to ask your support for the amendments to the Honey Research, Promotion and Consumer Information Act which are being proposed by the American Beekeeping Federation. These amendments will expand the programs of the National Honey Board to make it even more effective and useful to the beekeeping and honey industry.

The current programs of the National Honey Board are financed by a one cent per pound assessment paid by the producer on each pound of honey produced and a one cent assessment paid by the importer on each pound of honey imported into the United States. The proposed amendments will add a one cent per pound assessment to be paid by honey handlers and importers on each pound of honey that enters the stream of commerce in the United States. These funds are badly needed to enable the industry to address two very serious problems, the adulteration of honey with cheaper sweeteners and research on beekeeping problems such as the varroa mite which is decimating the honey bee population of this country.

There has been a concerted attempt to explain these changes to the entire industry and to address legitimate concerns of various groups. We feel that the only opposition is from those who do not want to clean up the adulteration problem and those who feel that the government should fund bee research without the involvement of the industry.

The amendments are part of the Agricultural Research Bill - H.R. 2534 and S. 1150. Please support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Binford Weaver